

# CALIFORNIA LIBRARY BULLETIN



March 1950, Vol. 11 No. 3

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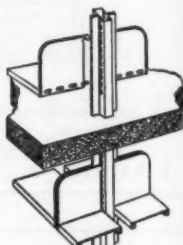
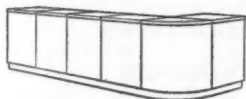
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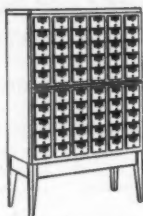
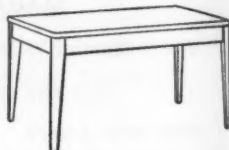
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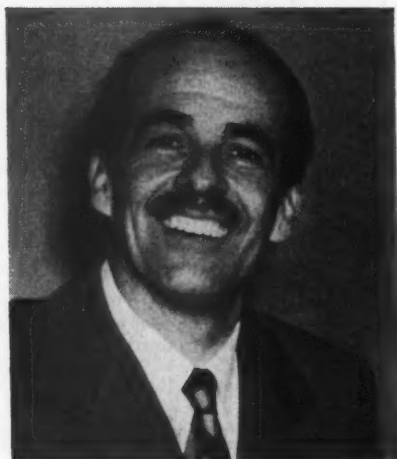
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**DR. LAWRENCE CLARK POWELL**

**CLA President, 1950**

Dr. Powell won scholastic laurels through his books on Robinson Jeffers and now, in addition to his duties as Librarian of UCLA, Librarian and Director of the Clark Memorial Library, and President of CLA, he thinks nothing of mc-ing Book and Author luncheons, and running over to Montana for library dedications. In the meantime he dashes off articles, brochures, meticulous bibliographies, and conducts a column on *Western Books and Writers* in *Westways*.

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# CALIFORNIA LIBRARY BULLETIN

Volume 11

Number 3

## Books on the Land

NO LAND is truly civilized until literature has encrusted it with lore. To me that is California's great lack. Its first hundred years have produced material monuments of adobe, gold, steel and concrete, which crumble, rust and wear before our eyes. How few though are what Yeats called the "monuments of unaging intellect," those works of prose and poetry whereby a land lives forever in spite of material decay. One reared on English literature, though he lived all his life in the Antipodes, lives in the land of Mary Webb as much as any Shropshire lad, in Hardy's Wessex, or in the Somerset and Dorset so lovingly celebrated in the essays of Llewelyn Powys.

Ever since I realized how much I love California by living out of state once for three years, I have gone up and down the land endlessly looking for native literature which, again to recall Yeats, though local in setting was infinitely translatable in meaning—and have not gone in vain. For there are titans in our midst. Robinson Jeffers, for example, who by nearly forty years' work in Carmel has given his name to that coast between Point Piños and Point Sur. It was through his poetry I first knew that country, and subsequent explorations of it revealed no phenomena

that Jeffers had not already observed and celebrated with eyes at once microscopic and visionary. Even a flight over the Santa Lucias spied out nothing undescribed in soaring passages in *Cawdor* and *The Women at Point Sur*.

The Great Valley, at least the San Joaquin end of it, has been uplifted into literature by Mary Austin, Frank Norris, William Saroyan, John Steinbeck and William Everson. What of the foothills? The northern Sacramento? We spent Christmas near Red Bluff, in a fertile land of almond, walnut and pear. On long sundown walks along dirt roads, smelling the windsweet fragrance of burning oak, my ears tingling with cold, challenged by every farmhouse dog, I lifted my eyes to Mount Lassen, smoke-wisped and snowy; and when I reached a rising piece of land, I saw Shasta a hundred miles away. Although unseen I sensed the river moving a few miles to the west. It was hunting season, and there were V's of geese and ducks trending to the treacherous haven of the river's reaches.

I could not recall any work of literature which has expressed the spirit of the great northern valley. In my pocket was a copy of Bunin's *The Well of Days*, and I wondered if some Tehama County lad is now growing up there

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Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by the Association.



in that river country, absorbing experience, and destined some day to recall it in strong and living prose, in the way the Russian writer immortalized his Ukrainian origins.

I did not know it then but over the Siskiyou in the watery, wooded valley of the Willamette a young man was building a cabin, and with his wife mimeographing a booklet of his own poems. I found Don Emblen's *The Crow Tree* a month later and on a trip to San Diego learned something about him: from his former colleagues in the Public Library. Marco Thorne guided me to a bookstore where I found a copy of Don and Betty Emblen's earlier book *There are Seagulls on our Lawn*, bearing on the jacket a picture of the two of them arm in arm on the beach—a poem itself if I ever saw one!

Deep in the valleyed mountains of the San Diego back country lives Judy van der Veer. My wife and I visited her last year, and with Judy and her niece Wöwser we walked through the mountain lilac (beloved habitat of ticks) to a flat view rock, from where we looked over valleys and lesser mountains to Cuyamaca—Old Queer Mack—which stands shoulder to shoulder with his gang and milks every passing cloud. Everything I saw that day was already known to me from reading *Brown Hills*, *November Grass* and her other books, for Judy van der Veer has looked at San Diego county long and with love.

Another folk writer who has taken many counties for his own is Idwal Jones. *China Boy*, *Vermilion* and *Vines in the Sun* are some of his best California books. They are earthy books, enriched by passages such as this—"Some cedar-trash was burning charging the air with the sweetness of pencil wood, and on the wind came full the California winter smell, a compound of earth and grass, tar weeds and anise, crumbled walnuts, the sharp rankness of wild oranges, and the medicinal tang of blue-gum leaves."

Our cities have not been as fortunate in the literary treatment they have received. Los Angeles is the hardest to write about, because of its amorphous character. Its exaggerated ways are easily satirized: witness *Ape and Essence*, *The Loved One*, *Praise the Lord*. In his detective novels Raymond Chandler comes close to capturing the true psyche of the Angel City.

Whereas San Francisco in its beautifully naked peninsula position should be an easy mark for any sharp-eyed poet or wide-eyed novelist. Yet I do not know of many writers of what I judge to be lasting literature, who have become inseparably identified with San Francisco. Oscar Lewis is one. His novel *I Remember Christine* has true Franciscan flavor. Clarkson Crane is another, and a greater. Few novelists wait, as he did, twenty-one years between their first and second books. In 1925 Crane's *The Western Shore* was one of the first, and remains one of the best, novels about university life in Berkeley. Two decades later he published in rapid succession two powerful San Francisco and Bay Region novels, *Mother and Son* and *Naomi Martin* which are apparently the opening movements of a Franciscan *comédie humaine*. Needless to say, in the present jackpot state of publishing, they are out of print and hard to find.

Ahead of us are ninety-six inscrutable years before the Bicentennials begin. Perhaps in 2046 our descendants will have substituted Norris, Jeffers, Steinbeck, Everson, Jones, van der Veer, Crane and others yet unborn, for those tired titans, Twain, Harte and Miller, whose western works are in these centennial years more praised than read. And the last adobe will have returned to the mud, the bridges sagged, the dams sprung leaks, and that literary patina which means civilization and culture have become several unremovable layers deeper.

—LAWRENCE CLARK POWELL

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## Librarian Goes to San Quentin

VERY FEW PEOPLE would take a stiff civil service examination in order to get into San Quentin. That, however, is what Herman K. Spector did and, as first official Senior Librarian, his accomplishments are truly impressive. We asked him to do something for the Bulletin on his work. Instead, he showered us with reports, brochures, statistics and copies of the San Quentin News. After digesting them we realized that here was one man who had no time to write casual articles, and we are more than pleased to act as his "ghost." If this brief resume conveys one-half our interest we shall feel repaid. Any errors and omissions are our own.

**WHAT WOULD YOU** think if you were asked to follow in the footsteps of Billy the Kid or Three Fingered Jack? Neither of these characters was ever librarian at San Quentin, but Dick Fellows was, and Dick, although not so notorious as Three Fingered Jack was, after his several attempts to emulate the great highway robbers of history, committed to San Quentin in 1870 and there, if you please, he acted as librarian and gave long moral speeches to the other convicts. He was later promoted to the rank of teacher in the Department of Moral Instruction at Folsom Prison. He claimed to have been a Harvard man. Even so, Herman K. Spector, who says he is only a "meager Columbia graduate" is undoubtedly doing a better job as librarian.

It seems incredible that, although there had been a library of sorts at San Quentin since 1852, it was not until the middle of 1947 that a trained librarian was put in charge. That books, surely one of the richest means for rehabilitation of men with "time on their hands" had been left to a hit-or-miss supervision.

Much of the time it was under the care of Chaplains, and regardless of their intelligence and concern, their first duty was for their own job. The far-from-dry statistics of Mr. Spector's two year reports show the desperate need for skilled management: users of the library, from a possible 4,555 men, increased from 489 to 3,226. The average readers borrows 100 books a year from

the library which now numbers about 25,000 volumes.

In addition to the regular collection, books specially requested by the men are secured from the State Library. Evidence that this service is appreciated is shown by the fact that almost 5000 books were so borrowed in 1948-49, or a 100% increase over the preceding year.

The men are permitted to purchase books and subscribe to magazines and newspapers, all under proper supervision. This report shows that 2,077 books were ordered by 1,271 men at a cost to them of \$5,753.99. Six hundred and thirty-seven men ordered 1,028 magazines. The Library has available, of course, such reference material as the U.S. Catalog, publishers catalogs, the Book Review Digest, etc., to aid in the selection of books, and the Senior Librarian gives further help in choosing editions, illustrations, price, etc.

In former years the library was open for the borrowing of books and returning them only a few minutes on week days. Now the library is open seven hours a day, seven days a week. The library attendants (all inmates except the Senior Librarian) have opportunity to give personal and advisory help. There is a special reference unit where students and writers find their important tools. Library cards are issued and books checked out much as in public libraries. Book damage and loss is very small, averaging one violation to 2000 borrowers.

If you would like to know what these men are reading, here are some circulation facts: history, travel and biography, 12,726; practical arts and science, 10,447; philosophy, psychology, religion and ethics, 5,321; literature, language and grammar, 7,250; social science, 4,040; fine arts, 3,893. This was in addition to fiction and magazines.

And listen to this: there were 1,588 men taking day and evening academic courses, 149 men enrolled in avocational courses, arts, and crafts; there were

almost a hundred taking correspondence courses with the University of California, sixty-seven taking such courses with other correspondence schools, and 214 men in the local Department of Corrections correspondence courses. They have held two graduation services in full regalia.

Debating teams composed of these men have made good records. "Our colleagues" Mr. Spector says, "were regular members of the debating teams of the University of California and San Francisco College. In the past two years we won two unanimous decisions and one 2 to 1 decision. Outside professional people are the judges."

In addition to the men who are taking specific courses, many are members of a Handicrafts Association and pursue their work in their cells. Then there are the men who are writing. A delicate task which the Senior Librarian has assumed is the reading and criticism of manuscripts offered for outside publication by the inmates of the prison. During the year he approved 973 short stories, plays, poems, novels, biographies and feature articles, and rejected 418.

It must be a great satisfaction to the Senior Librarian that many of these manuscripts have been accepted; two by nationally known magazines—one on technical aviation problems and one on the extinct buffalo. One professional writer has had two plays and two books published.

All these activities require books, and properly selected books. Would the untrained person, for example, be able to advise these writers which of the less expensive dictionaries would contain scientific terms, the most comprehensive vocabulary, or the most slang words?

Book lists are made for the use of the Chaplains, and like Dick Fellows, Mr. Spector lectures to the patrons of his library. His theme is the library itself, its reason for being, its benefits for institutional and post-release activities; the reader's advisory service, the borrowing and purchase of books or pamphlets; how to use the reference ma-

terial in preparation of manuscripts, speeches, debates, etc. He also gives information about their 900-record musical library, selections from which may be played over their own "grey network," by request of the inmates or their friends outside.

No one person could possibly accomplish all that has gone into the building up of the usefulness of San Quentin Library. The inmate staff now numbers about twenty. The staff has cataloged almost 24,000 books during the two years under survey, replacing about 23,000 discarded. They typed 12,000 book cards, and 6368 letters. They rebound books (under the supervision of E. F. Ryan, of the Print Shop), and shellacked them and lettered them. These inmate assistants are familiar with the Dewey classification and with the book stock and able to give competent help to readers.

Some library service is being extended to Condemned Row, Guidance Center, criminal insane patients, San Quentin Camp, Hospital and Psychiatric patients, Old Prison and South Block Segregation, Road and Forestry Camps when open, Groups of books on psychology, mental health, and inspirational readings are prepared for men in isolation.

One of the men, talking before a "speech group" electrified his audience by choosing as his subject, "Crime does pay." In somewhat broken English he told what the prison had done for him, a foreigner with little education: "Being here, I have come to know myself and my faults. Being here, I have attended school and improved my English language very much. Being here, I'll admit, is not what I'd rather do, but I accept the fact that I made a mistake and now I am making the mistake pay me dividends . . . My crime did not pay me in dollars but with knowledge. When I leave San Quentin I know I will never come back to this prison or any other like it."

The San Quentin Library and Librarian must be doing a big share in thus making crime "pay." —B.M.

# The Lesson of the Master

By ARMINE D. MACKENZIE

FOR SOME REASON, fiction, for all that it remains the staple of our public library circulation, seems to be a perennial problem child. Most librarians subscribe wholeheartedly to Helen Haines' views concerning the importance of serious novels, particularly as social documents; book lists on race relations, self help, vocations, and the other burning questions with which libraries concern themselves these days as often as not include fiction as helpful examples. Yet we are troubled. It is all very well to stock good "solid" novels in our libraries. No one would quarrel with that, not even the hypothetical indignant taxpayer who is so often invoked and exorcised in library circles. But what are we to do with the trash, the light love stories, the mysteries and westerns, the drug store counter sort of thing? Where are we to draw the line? How can we include O'Hara and leave out Caldwell (Erskine or Taylor) or should we? Should we compete with newstands or circulating libraries? How far should we plumb the outer galaxies of scientific fantasy fiction, or the inner mysteries of the woman's magazine market? Yes, this is a time of troubles for guardians of our library fiction. And I am afraid that instead of getting better, things are going to get worse. Or at least more complicated.

We have all more or less been expecting a new trend in fiction, something similar, perhaps, to the enormous creative burst that signalized the Fitzgerald-Sinclair Lewis-Hemingway era after the first world war. Critics and reviewers have kept their ears anxiously to the ground. We have had many articles in the book review magazines, mostly about what our new young writers should do. Novels should be positive in their values, say the critics; they should use the position of women or the opening of the west as material; they should avoid pessimism or existentialism. Mer-

ciful Heavens, cries one feminine reviewer, may we at least be spared another *Green Hat*! And so forth. One reviewer asks for a little self denial on the part of young writers: this is no time for "mere" cleverness, he says; and he must be gratified at the number of beginners who seem to have no temptation to stray in that direction. The difficulty is that although we have many many critics, fulminating and striking attitudes, we have comparatively few writers who do not seem to be writing the novels of the past all over again. This is nice for library book lists (it is lovely when novels define themselves according to subject formulas; it is so much easier to put *The Lost Weekend* on a booklist than it is *Bullivant and the Lambs*), but it is a little exasperating when one is trying to discover what our postwar era is all about.

In this article I wish to touch on what seems to be a trend, though perhaps I am overemphasizing its importance. In any case, it is going to be troublesome for libraries. I can foresee the public demanding explanations of the harassed librarians the way people ask (always when six or seven people are waiting for service at the desk) what surrealism, existentialism, or modern poetry mean. In a sense, the trend I am referring to goes back to the Henry James boom that took place in the war years. Poor old Henry was respected tremendously during his lifetime but little read and even less, one understands, bought. When, at the height of his fame, he brought out the definitive edition of his works, with the famous prefaces, he ruefully stated how he had become a classic without ever having been able to earn a living at writing. (How different modern literature would be without private incomes: one thinks of Proust, Gide, Joyce . . .) Then, of course, the screw received another turn when no one bought the

definitive edition either. Now, however, Henry has come into his own; and it is becoming apparent that he is having an influence on new writers.

The point was made by Stephen Spender, in a brilliant essay on Henry James' last phase, as exemplified in *The Golden Bowl*, that the novel at the old master's hands had become something very similar to the best of modern poetry. That is, the use of symbols, the various levels of meaning, the sense of integral form growing out of the substance of the work, rather than being imposed arbitrarily, points the way to what has taken place in the "difficult" poems of T. S. Eliot and his successors. Now this trend seems to me evident in a good deal of the fiction that is coming out at the present time. A shift is apparent from the idea of the novel as a social document or a purely naturalistic study. The Zola-Dreiser tradition is vigorously upheld by certain writers. But Henry James (who was always pained by Zola) would be able to point to another direction that our fiction is taking, in which his own work stands as a signpost.

I am not too sure, however, that the master would be quite happy with his followers. It will be recalled that he quite fumed when the *Yellow Book* printed a piece of his in the same issue as an Aubrey Beardsley drawing. He would be moderately aware of suspended pleasure, one suspects, at *A Long Day's Dying*; but if he picked up *The Sheltering Sky*, there can be pictured his bewilderment, no rather let us say, his distinct absence of approbative enlightenment, that a work containing characters one would never even encounter socially should be mentioned as following in his path.

It does not do to over-estimate the Henry James influence. A reaction against the journalistic novel and the objective Hemingway method was inevitable; and probably the James revival has been part of a general trend rather than its cause. Other elements

enter in these new novels. In *The Sheltering Sky*, as in others, it is difficult for the reader to distinguish the dream element from the objective reality. Here the influence of surrealism and the fantasies of Kafka are apparent. Then again, the milieu of self-conscious artificiality that characterizes *A Long Day's Dying* reminds me of Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood* as much as any other source. Critics have found that the odd Scapegoat of Jocelyn Brooke evokes *The Turn of the Screw*; but here again the symbolism verging on myth seems to involve Jungian psychology in a way that would have given the old master the creeps.

At any event, we seem on the threshold of an era in which the novel will join its sister art of poetry as subtle material for an intellectual elite. Of course, libraries struggled bravely with *Finnegan's Wake* and Gertrude Stein before now: but the trend is widening. As one librarian who remembers simpler days, I am constantly aware that I probably am missing something from the very newest fiction. Behind the deceptively simple style of Henry Green's *Loving*, just what exactly is taking place, when the servant girls dance in the old castle and the peacocks strut? It all seems to mean something for which there is no exact prose paraphrase, as in a Dylan Thomas poem. Anyway, it's downright discouraging when you are called on to do an annotation in twenty-five words of one of these new novels. I saw a Compton-Burnett story characterized as dealing with the servant problem of the 'nineties: I suppose it does, in a way: just as we can write for the *Sheltering Sky* "a study of conditions in the Sahara Desert." But the fiction librarian's life is not going to get easier as the second half of the century develops. It is said that one library enters Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, in which, you'll remember, a young man turns into a bug, under *Insects in Fiction*. This is probably apochryful, but it is a sign of the time. We are entering a strange age.

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# From Overdue to Overjoyed

By MARCO THORNE

SAN DIEGO WILL HAVE a new library, and Marco Thorne, newly appointed Assistant to Clara Breed, arrived in time to see the climactic finish of a long, hard-won battle. His account of how this triumph was accomplished is full of suggestion and encouragement to librarians faced with a similar problem. It explains, too, why the alert little SD staff bulletin changed its name for post-election week from a lugubrious OVERDUE to OVERJOYED.

THE PHRASE, "six weeks," when used in Reno hints at the American custom of divorce. It now has a comparable meaning for San Diego Public Library. From the time that the City Council gave the surprise notice of a \$2,000,000 bond issue until election day, November 8th, when voters approved the bonds by the required two-thirds majority, there was a passage of only six weeks. At long last the Library will divorce itself from its forty-nine year old, inadequate main building and acquire a new central library and ten new or improved branches.

However, the six weeks fact should not be stretched so far as to jeopardize the truth of the matter. Actually, San Diego Public Library's main building has been outgrown for 33 years. As far back as 1922 an attempt was made to get an addition to the present building financed, but with no success. Annexes near the main building have been rented since 1916 at a total cost to date of over \$250,000 in rents. Again in 1937 and 1948 bond issues were attempted. The string of past defeats was an ominous warning against another try, especially on short notice. But the beckoning finger of past build-ups hinted at possible success.

In 1937 only 50% of the voters had approved of spending \$250,000 for a new library, although matching federal funds were then available. In 1948 almost 60% approved of spending \$2,213,000 (of which \$1,713,000 was to come from bonds), although the civic

center site then proposed was a matter for bitter controversy. With the site argument removed—since the whole civic center plan was decisively rejected by the voters at a spring 1949 election—it seemed as if another bond issue for a new library on the present site might have a chance.

The Library Commission and the City Council both recognized that no bond issue would ever carry in San Diego if there were any organized opposition. It was not easy to win the support of the Chamber of Commerce, the organization which had spearheaded the civic center grouping plan the year before, but miraculously it was done. The City Planning Commission agreed rather reluctantly "not to oppose" the bonds, but could not be coaxed to take any more positive stand. However, a much more influential group, the San Diego's Taxpayers' Association, endorsed the library bonds "because of the dire need."

The next step was the organization of a Citizens' Committee for the Library Bonds. The Library Commission, consisting of Laurence M. Klauber, president, Beatrice E. Brenneman and Thomas O. Scripps, and aided by Clara E. Breed, City Librarian, found a chairman in the person of Richard Nelson, San Diego businessman and civic leader. An executive committee, representative of the whole community—business men, labor, education, church groups, civic leaders—was formed to guide the strategy of the campaign. Some 250 prominent citizens were asked to join as members, lending their names as sponsors of the bond drive. A finance committee passed the hat and raised approximately \$2,000 for advertising. A publicity committee, aided by the friendliness of San Diego daily and weekly newspapers, wrote stories telling about crowded, hopeless conditions at the main building and the woeful lack of

branches. A speaker's bureau of citizen volunteers boned up on facts about the Library's needs and filled requests from luncheon, service and civic clubs for speakers.

Besides helping the Citizens' Committee with her experiences of past campaigns, Miss Breed turned to the Library staff for aid. Phone calls located a bevy of artists who turned out a design for a poster and made the silk-screen for same, 500 copies of which were run off by members of the staff. Other staff members and volunteers placed the posters at strategic spots in store windows. The mimeograph machine groaned loudly, but with joy, at the reams of leaflets that squeezed by its rapidly revolving drum and into the hands of library patrons and audiences at club meetings. Some staff members cancelled vacations and gave of their time, autos, and speaking ability to supplement the work of the volunteer speakers' bureau and the publicity committee. Book reviews were given willingly to social groups, but with "plugs" for passage of bonds thrown into the talks. Opportunities for free radio time were grasped eagerly and used by patrons familiar with the Library's needs and by Miss Breed as well as by Mayor Harley E. Knox. City Councilmen, in keeping with their voluntary pledge to help put over the campaign, attended meetings in their districts and spoke to their constituents.

In the latter part of the campaign, a "Friends of the Library for Proposition A" was formed from those who had come into the main building or branches and volunteered their help in response to a mimeographed appeal for additional workers. These Friends were pressed into service passing out printed leaflets from door to door or phoning at least ten friends to urge them to vote for the Library. One district had a common prefix to all its phone numbers and volunteers called every person in that area to urge a vote in the Library's favor. Thomas Crawford Hill, a car-

toonist from the Cleveland Plain Dealer donated a drawing ridiculing the main library's inadequacy. It was enlarged by photography to gigantic proportions and displayed in one of the city's most prominent store windows. Other displays went up about town and in neighborhood areas.

It was decided early in the campaign that all facts should be given frankly to questioners of the bond issue. A Library Bond Fact Sheet was made up and supplied to speakers. When questions were asked of speakers at clubs, they were answered as candidly as possible and with no attempt to conceal the fact that taxes might have to go up slightly.

With fingers crossed, the Citizens' Committee waited for last minute organized opposition. There was none, even when tax bills came out just seven days before election and a certain group opposing a state proposition in the same election urged its supporters to vote "no" on everything. A sample poll in one of the weakest 1948 precincts forecast a vote in the Library's favor. The night before election a poll on the radio, taken by phone, gave the bonds a 7 to 1 edge over defeat. Election day was quiet in the main building and branches. That night as staff members watched precinct results in the registrar of voters' offices it soon became apparent that the Library had a majority, but the extent was not evident at first. About 10:30 p.m. the "yes" votes pulled away from the "no" votes and formed a strong two-thirds majority which grew more bulky as the early hours of morning approached. The final score stood at 55,190 "yes," and 24,276 "no" votes, giving the Bonds a 69.4% majority.

How did San Diego put over its campaign? The answer is really simple. Librarians and other staff members had been campaigning, not for just the six weeks of the official 1949 effort, but through friendliness and patience despite the inadequate main building. Instead of mourning past defeats, exten-

(Continued on page 125)

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# In Managua, Nicaragua

By MARY PHIPPENY

WHEN MARY PHIPPENY first went to Managua, in 1947, her letters home indicated that she felt if she stuck out a year she would be doing very well indeed. This is 1950, and she is still there: Director of the American Library now, she sends us this informal account of that spot where they have "coffee and bananas and a tempera-  
ture hot." After reading the description of her glorified tamales, you will probably find yourself finishing this Bulletin in a certain little Spanish restaurant that you know about.

**"FIRST ABOUT the Library.** In May, 1947, there were twenty-three of us, four Americans. Now we are twelve, and the director makes an unlucky thirteen and is the only American. (It should be pointed out that they are correct in saying we have no right to call ourselves Americans to the exclusion of all other inhabitants of this hemisphere, but we know what we mean, and it's easier that way just among ourselves.) In May, 1947 the circulation figures given were something over 3300 and the attendance 32,000 in round numbers. Circulation had begun to increase, and now it maintains an average of around 12,000 to 15,000 per month, with attendance about 23,000. We had expected, with the cut in staff, to have to curtail services and consequently show a decrease in circulation, but thus go all predictions! We have managed a skeleton staff, in spite of limitations in personnel and training, to cover eight hours a day, though this becomes pretty difficult when anyone is sick,—a not uncommon occurrence.

"If the director were observing casually from the side, she would say without hesitation that she spends too much time in office work, letters, bills, and the hundred and one things that come in the mails, and does not get acquainted with her public except as they keep interrupting her with questions of certain privileges, books they wish ordered, petitions signed . . . She keeps worrying along, knowing what she should be doing and finding the day

too confoundedly short . . . There is one professional librarian among the Managuans, and she is a great boon. She had her training at the University of Oklahoma and knows her stuff very well.

"Of the people who come to the library the most appealing are the children. They come in droves. Many of them the raggedest little bootblacks with their clothes so patched and sewed that



*The children come in droves.*

often there is only a maze of threads zigzagging back and forth over an expanse of no cloth. Some are clean, and they all have the same eager dark eyes, the same enthusiasm in seeing books, looking at pictures, fighting for a place in line on the days we have a matinee; the same excitement when they have a Christmas party and get simple gifts, the same desire to draw pictures when the director gets around to producing a story for them to illustrate . . . Will this spark of interest develop into a force of energy toward something better in their lives than they would have had? We think so. Unfortunately our Congress, at the moment, does not and therein lies the sadness of these missions . . . There is room for a long discussion but this is not the place . . .

"When the opportunity came to move out of noisy, dusty, rather dirty Mana-

gua, to a small farm with the same family I have always lived with, I immediately snatched it, and have enjoyed a year of going back and forth in the jeep, bringing the children to school, doing little nothings about the place when there is time; watching it grow from an abandoned place to one of some use and never-lagging diversion: from the day the baby chicks flew into Managua from Miami until now when they are producing six dozen eggs daily; from the day we brought the mama deer from a nearby finca and two little unrelated ones from more distant parts until now we discover mama intends to have her own family; from the day we decided old grumpy papa pig was worth more as a section of *nacatamale* until now we discover his ladies do not agree with us; from the day the carpenter came into the kitchen so drunk we thought we would scare him off with a fiery glance until now we find there is no fire in the glance; from the night the heavenly rivers poured into Nicaragua, the jeep floundered, and we waded home through more than a foot of water, until now we land at the library after a trip through a foot of dust on the same road. From all these days and nights and many more of them, life has not been dull—on the outside.

"We eat a *nacatamale* for Sunday morning breakfast and wonder how we manage to keep thin. If you had a mass of cornmeal filled with pieces of fresh pork, potato, rice, tomato, a bit of the hottest pepper hidden away in there to nab you if you are not on your guard, all boiled in banana leaves until it is a nice, moist, tasty mass, but large, would you think of your stomach or your weight? Then there is a very, very large, ripe, cooking banana, baked in the oven until it is a lovely brown and almost sirupy around the edges, to be eaten with sour cream which is itself thick enough to stand alone. Cream and cheeses are common part of every meal in prosperous homes. A dry cheese,

something like farmer style cottage cheese, hardened until it forms a brick, is common food among the less prosperous.

"The coffee is burned instead of roasted, and makes something inky in appearance but a great favorite with milk. Only now is pasteurizing being introduced but boiling the milk is quite common. Strange fruits and vegetables come and go on the table. We eat heartily and well, yes heavily, as you can judge, but do not gain, so why worry?

"Nicaragua—a land of many resources, some of them developed by Americans which always causes some degree of resentment, but the people are profiting to an extent, and some realize it, others will . . . The many revolutions and threats of them in these lands can be explained to a point by temperament, politics, and interference of the wrong sort . . .

"This approximates a thin nutshell report . . . If it serves to fill the required space what more can one wish. Aren't we here to fill space, or was it for something more important? In the tropics one wonders . . . fights it off, but the gremlins bring it back in the night. And there we face the situation and think maybe we should transfer to ski country . . ."

#### NUREMBERG CHRONICLE

All there is to know about the *Nuremberg Chronicle* can probably be found in Ellen Shaffer's monograph recently brought out by Dawson's Book Shop. This handsome folio is printed by the Plantin Press, and contains reproductions of pages and woodcuts, together with a leaf from the pirated edition of 1497. The edition is limited to 300 copies.

# Story Telling on the Radio

By MARTHA LOU MANSON

YOU, TOO, CAN BE a successful radio performer. No, that's not a quotation from an advertisement for a radio success school, but the advice of Martha Lou Manson who says if you can tell stories to a regularly large number of children at a library story hour, you can have a radio story-telling program which will appeal not only to children, but also to a surprising number of adults.

**FAMILIES STILL LIKE** to sit in their living rooms and hear stories told, just as, before books were available to everyone, they sat around the manor-house halls listening to wandering minstrels or story-tellers. That is why a radio story-teller, duplicating the old wandering minstrel's job, can have a large listening audience.

I decided to try telling stories on the radio after seeing the children sitting enraptured for the story-telling half hour in the library patio on Saturday mornings. I wanted to reach those who couldn't come to the library. On Saturdays I told stories appealing to the highest level of intelligence of those present. I sometimes think the little ones would listen to the telephone book read dramatically. So, in selecting stories for the radio, I used the same principal, and those stories honoring the intelligence of the listeners. Robin Hood, the Greek and Roman myths, Robert Louis Stevenson, Howard Pyle, and, of course, good fairy tales have the widest appeal. After all, what was good enough for the minstrels was good enough for me.

On most small radio stations, copyright dates are not considered, especially if the book from which you have chosen the story is being recommended for reading. But, to be on the safe side, choose old stories that don't require permission to be used. I wanted the children to become acquainted with the great works of literature, things they couldn't read themselves. So I adapted Robert Burns' poem, *Tam O'Shanter*. It's a suspenseful story, what with old Nannie, the ghost, chasing Tam. It

makes a fine Halloween story. Another one I selected was *The Taming of the Shrew*, concentrating on the broad humor of making a bad woman behave. Chapters from *Penrod* are funny—"The Great Tar Fight," the circus episode, the horror of dancing class. I must confess that with both *Tam O'Shanter* and *The Taming of the Shrew* I worried. Would the children understand and enjoy them? I could have saved myself the gray hairs. They did, even the littlest ones.

To tell stories about familiar surroundings interests the children. Palm Springs is a desert community, but there isn't much desert material available. So, I invented stories—no copyright worries about them either. There is a pottery colt on one of the library shelves. I made up a story about him in which he came to life, left the library, and explored the desert. Unfortunately, he chipped his pottery side before returning to his shelf. Children came down in droves to see the colt and the chip in his side. After two years, they still remember him. Pete, our janitor, was a character in the story. How his Indian friends joked with him after hearing the story over the radio. Making up stories like that is a good way to bring people into the library, people that have never been in before.

Pegasus, the flying horse tamed by Bellerophon, was the story I chose to introduce the radio series. It's an exciting one, and Pegasus represents the imaginative stories that I wanted to give to the children.

After the stories are selected, the next step is programming. Plan the series of programs so that a fairy story is told one week, then a modern tale, then a myth, then a humorous story.

A fifteen minute program is the ideal length. It leaves the audience wanting more, so they will listen in to the next program. Then too, the radio station will be much more likely to have a free

fifteen minute period they can give to you than they will a half hour. Fifteen minutes is just about the right time for one story. More than one usually can't be developed properly, and the storyteller might have to race through two in order to get them told before the relentless second hand on the clock indicates the time for the next program.

Finish the story each time, don't subscribe to the horrible "continued next week" plan. Some books complete a story in each chapter. It's fun to tell one chapter from a book, then, later, tell another. Albert Bigelow Paine's old book, *The Arkansaw Bear*, lends itself well for this. Of course, you sing with this one, but then, it's only Horatio, the bear, who is supposed to be singing. No matter how bad one's voice is, it's fairly easy to imitate a singing bear.

With stories selected, and program series planned, the next step is writing the script. That's where the trouble comes. Invariably, the story you've picked to tell is too long or too short. Plan on your entire script lasting twelve and a half or thirteen minutes. That leaves time for a theme song at the beginning and end, and commercials at station breaks.

After experimenting I write the stories in longhand. If the story takes five pages to write, then it is approximately thirteen minutes long. So, if I have seven pages written out, I cross out lines and rewrite until it totals only five pages. Then I read the story, and it usually hits the right time. Six typewritten pages equal thirteen minutes.

I can't decide whether it is easier to shorten or lengthen a story. Both are annoying. Preparing the scripts is good writing practice though. Shortening stories teaches you to tell only what is important towards moving the story to its climax, and to tell things in the simplest way. Give only a few descriptive details; tell the action. Let the children use their imagination in picturing the scenes.

Always start your program the same way, identifying yourself and the program. Ending it with the same sentence is a good idea too. I vary my introduction slightly. I usually say, "Hello. This is Miss Manson, Children's Librarian at the Welwood Murray Memorial Library in Palm Springs, here tonight to tell you a story about —." Or, I say, "Hello. This is Miss Manson, here tonight to tell you another story from one of the books that line the walls of the Children's Room of the Welwood Murray Memorial Library in Palm Springs."

When I had prepared eight scripts, written as entertainingly as I could, timed right, with stories of wide appeal, I showed them to the manager of our local radio station. I had never had any radio training or experience, so the scripts had to sell him the idea of a story-telling program. The station manager liked them, and had been wanting such a program for children. He was glad to donate the time. It is a general policy of radio stations, who are licensed to operate in the public interest, to donate a certain amount of time to public service features.

It is difficult to obtain the ideal time for the program, for network shows have first choice on the best hours. Try to get fifteen minutes in the early evening, or late afternoon.

Perhaps you will think facing the microphone is the hardest part of all. It isn't. If you are nervous, it might help to remember that the best and most experienced radio performers often are very nervous (so I was told when I broke out in a cold sweat). If you can try for a feeling of "Oh, nuts! I don't care!", you might be able to fool yourself into being at ease. The comments of the children, the books they want to read, the adults that laugh and say, "I must still be a child, for I like to listen to you"—it all makes the work worthwhile. I know you'll agree, once you try it.

## THE HELEN E. HAINES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Have you contributed to the Helen E. Haines scholarship fund? If you haven't, please consider this a personal invitation to do so immediately. The Helen E. Haines Scholarship Committee, with Miss Althea Warren as Chairman, has high hopes of raising \$10,000 and using the interest from this amount to provide a scholarship which will assist one or more students in obtaining a Library Science degree. Such a plan would provide a means of making recruitment extremely meaningful on the part of all librarians, since the chance of a scholarship would lend impetus to the consideration of a library career.

We need to emphasize, however, that the Helen E. Haines Committee is composed of librarians who have no magic wand with which to promote results. Therefore, if we are to achieve our goal, librarians throughout the state must help. Your contributions, as well as those of your friends whom you may be able to interest in aiding librarianship, should be mailed to Dr. Lewis F. Steig, Treasurer of the Helen E. Haines Fund, and Librarian of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7, California.

In addition to individual contributions we should like to urge the enthusiastic group participation of committees from your staff associations. We are also endeavoring to contact publishing houses, book stores, and library school alumni associations, but here again we want each librarian to act as a committee of one and make the effort to secure "leads."

As you undoubtedly know, Miss Haines is now living in Pasadena where she is working on the revision of *Living With Books*. For more than fifty years as a teacher, lecturer and reviewer she has inspired librarians and students with her keen insight, her knowledge of books, and her courageous fight against censorship. She has exerted a significant influence upon our profession through

her classes in Library Science at Columbia University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California. The Helen E. Haines Scholarship Committee is pleased to state that during Miss Haines' lifetime the income from the fund will be a gift to her. The scholarship to be established is actually a small gesture in recognition of the great work she has done, and is doing.

In addition to Miss Warren, of the Department of Library Science, University of Michigan, Chairman, and Dr. Steig, Treasurer, members of the Helen E. Haines Scholarship Fund Committee include:

Mr. John Askling, Indexing Consultant, 304 W. 35th St., New York City, Eastern Chairman.

Mr. B. J. Caldwell, Librarian, Pomona Public Library, Western Chairman.

Mrs. Jean Cothran, Los Angeles Public Library

Mrs. Frances Henselman, Long Beach Public Library

Mr. Storer B. Lunt, President, W.W. Norton and Co., 101 5th Ave., New York 3.

Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, Librarian, University of California at Los Angeles.

Mrs. Dorothy Rosen, Route 1, Box 81, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Send us your contributions now, and ask your friends to send theirs tomorrow!

## OUR COVER ARTIST

Alexander F. Harmer, young student from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, enlisted in the U.S. Cavalry in order to get to the West and paint it. He served under Capt. John G. Bourke and General Cook. Later he married a Spanish-American girl, and lived in Santa Barbara. The picturesque details of his paintings may not be in the modern style but they are excellent history.



## CALIFORNIA LIBRARY BULLETIN

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Bertha Marshall

### ● Contributing Editors

Lawrence C. Powell

Neal Harlow

Armine D. Mackenzie

### ● Departments

Academic Notes - Ferris S. Randall  
Party Line - - - - Grace Murray  
Library Photography - Alan D. Covey  
Connoisseur - - - by divers hands

## All Right, Smarty!

**N**O ONE, I am sure, has been more vociferously critical of library publications than your present editor. In season and out, in bad taste and—well, probably always in bad taste. Once I was brash enough to send some of my harshest thoughts on the subject to an editor. *Dull as Ditchwater* was the title, and in it small house organs were laid out in lavender for using cryptic items: Wonder who was seen wearing a new diamond lately—Why does So-and-So find so many errands to a certain steno's desk—With a few ha, ha's thrown in to show that it is all just good fun. Professional journals in general were accused of saying (like O. W. Holmes' *Katydid*) "Such an unimportant thing in such a solemn way."

Maybe life is earnest, what with fragments of rockets popping at us from the stratosphere, and human beings unable to settle their differences except

with high-power explosives. But, and even though we are dispensing the best known antidote to stupidity, must we be dull about it? OOoops, here I go again.

Needless to say, these unflattering comments were returned promptly. The editor, while professing agreement, was afraid to print them for fear his thin trickle of contributions would dry up completely.

Because of all this, and although the suggestion that I take over the editing of the *Bulletin* was couched in most tactful language, there echoes through the vast, empty spaces of my guilty mind a voice whispering, All right, smarty. You try it.

Here and now, let me proclaim that none of these nasty little critical stones were aimed at this *Bulletin*, which has steadily grown in stature since its first appearance. The editors have done their editing on their own time and a shoe-string. In comparison, our present budget of time and money is nothing short of munificent. And from Neal Harlow has come a valuable resume of practices and procedure as well as a directory of rich sources for articles.

The bare mention of the name *Bulletin*, however, sends me off again with my pockets full of rocks. Bulletins, bulletins — *American Library Association Bulletin*, *California Library Bulletin*, *School Library Bulletin*, *Special Libraries Bulletin*. Bulletin: something hung outside the door of a prominent man where death is already knocking. "The patient passed a restless night. Temperature sub-normal. Pulse weak. The doctors hold out no hope."

With all the wit, wisdom and intellectual brilliance in the world before their eyes, for librarians to show no more imagination than a turnip! Wouldn't *El Clamor* (an early Los Angeles newspaper) be a wonderful name? I'd settle for *Western Bookman*, even. Nothing very original about that either, but it does indicate an interest in books. It is inclusive: it would take in a lot of territory, talent, and interested readers. It might grow with their help.

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Knowing that there will be many a lifted eyebrow over misplaced commas, faulty construction, and poor proofreading, I find myself looking around wildly for alibis and notable precedents. From that early textbook on high pressure salesmanship, the *Americanization of Edward Bok*, one sentence burned itself into my memory: "And as such things will fall out in this curiously strange world, it happened that as Edward drew up his chair for the first time to his desk to begin his work on that Monday morning there had been born in Boston, exactly twelve hours before, a girl-baby who was destined to become his wife." An editor did that Katydidish sentence after years of wielding a blue pencil. I hereby promise to try to do no worse.

As to proofreading, I refer you to the *Saturday Review of Literature*, my favorite literary arbiter, for fearful examples. In the case of Bennet Cerf's *Trade Winds*, I'm never sure whether there is a typographical error or whether it is a joke that I'd better not ask to have explained, but in the recently published Canby preface to Thoreau there was one paragraph which only reference to that stunning new edition will ever clear up.

Now, where do I find myself? At a moment when I should be treading lightly, discreetly ignoring the possibility of such things as dangling participles, split infinitives, and mis-matched commas, I recklessly get myself out on a limb. There is a hoary tale of an old chap (from California, of course) who entertained youngsters night after night with stories of his hair-breadth escapes. One evening, reaching a climax, he found himself with his back to a high cliff, bloodthirsty Indians crowding in, his wide-eyed audience gasping, "How did you get away?" He hesitated. His imagination had let him down. "I didn't," he admitted, "they killed me." I have crawled 'way out here on this limb. A sheer wall at my back. My cartridge belt is empty.

Go ahead. Shoot!

—B.M.

## ADVERTISING CONTRACTS DON'T JUST HAPPEN

The *Bulletin* Committee on Advertising realize this and wish to remind you that you can help. Let prospective advertisers (the people who come to sell things to you) know that the *Bulletin* would welcome their ads. Then, don't forget to mention having seen their ad in the *Bulletin* when you make inquiries from business firms.

Librarians are interested in many things besides books, bookbinding, and office equipment. They travel, they buy insurance, automobiles, radios, television sets. The *Bulletin* reaches about 2500 of us throughout this long state. We are good "prospects."

If you are too shy to approach the purveyors of such desirable items on the subject of advertising, then get in touch with any member of the Committee. He will be delighted.

Frank B. Bittle  
B. J. Caldwell, Chairman  
John S. Gildersleeve  
Catherine Greening  
Malin H. Wing

## ON THE OTHER HAND

Here is a miracle in the way of advertising that does "happen." And it can happen to you. Foster & Kleiser are making available to libraries one of their large advertising Boards with the slogan: "The Child Who Reads—Leads. Use Your Public Library."

If you would like to take advantage of this generous offer and don't know who their District Manager is, write direct to Mr. J. W. Fontana, Director of Public Relations, Foster & Kleiser, Eddy St. at Pierce, San Francisco 19, Calif.

The June *Bulletin* is to be a super-colossal Centennial number. The material for it is being assembled by Andrew H. Horn, Chairman of the California Library History Committee.



## The President's Page

**THE NEW EDITOR** is a hard bargainer. This official space was mine only on condition that I contribute at least an equal amount of so-called literary copy. Here then is a salvo of praise for the departed editor and a welcoming salute to the new. Neal Harlow's request to be relieved was honored because his own professional work and historical research were being stultified by the increasing demands of a successful *Bulletin*. His term of service needs no praise from me; I merely point with pride at the truly creative issues he fathered, and thank him for long hours (mostly nocturnal) of faithful labor.

I am just as proud of his successor, Bertha Marshall, and equally confident that under her blue pencil the *Bulletin* will become even more readable, for she will have more time for the task. No newcomer to editorial work is Miss Marshall. She served with me a decade ago on the *Bulletin's* original editorial board. She edited the sparkling *Broadcaster* of the Los Angeles Public Library Staff Association. Her witty humane mind is of a quality all too rare in librarianship. Thanks to the Los Angeles Public Library (from which she retired about a year ago) Miss Marshall will make her editorial headquarters there.

A CLA president not willing to travel is an absentee officer. She's a big state, podner, and one needs wheels and wings and time. I shall of course attend all the District Meetings, and in addition I am speaking at unofficial gatherings in other parts of the state. San Diego, San Bernardino, Pasadena, Bakersfield have already been visited, and on the 11th of this month I shall attend the School Library Association meeting in San Francisco. Then Oakland and Sonora in April, Eureka and Quincy in May (with a sidetrip to Montana for a library dedication), and finally Sacramento in June.

What a conference that will be! If two thousand CLA members attend, that

will leave five hundred at home to keep the libraries open! If before then I fail to reach every grass root in the state, look for me on the banks of the Sacramento in the state capital, June 21-24, where a freshly woven presidential mat will be out day and night.

### CLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1950

Sacramento, June 21-24

#### — PROGRAM —

##### Wednesday, June 21

Sessions of Affiliated and Related Organizations; County Librarians, Music Library Association, Special Libraries Association, and others invited.  
12:00—Registration, CLA  
Evening—Informal Pre-Convention Dinner; Musical Program.

##### Thursday, June 22

Breakfast Meetings of Committees and Other Groups  
Morning—General Session, Welcome, Introductions. Speaker: Vernon Clapp, Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress.  
Luncheon Meeting—A Salute to The California State Library. Speaker: Phil T. Hanna.  
Afternoon—Business Meeting, Committee Reports.  
Evening—General Session, 100 Years of Library Materials and Services in California.

##### Friday, June 23

Breakfast Meetings of Committees and Other Groups  
Morning—Sections Meetings  
Luncheons—Sections  
Afternoon—Free Time: Sutter's Fort Tour, Ranch Visit, State Library, Crocker Gallery - music, State Capitol, Exhibits, Audio-Visual, etc.  
Evening—General Session, Speakers: Lawrence C. Powell, on the Role of Librarianship in California Intellectual and Literary History; Clarence A. Graham, President-Elect of American Library Association, on The Public Library and the People.

##### Saturday, June 24

California Literary Centennial Program Jointly Sponsored by the California Literary Centennial of the California Centennials Commission and the California Library Association.  
Morning—A Century of Newspapers in California. Speakers: Neal V. Sooney, Peter T. Conmy, John W. Caughey.  
Luncheon—California Folklore. Speaker: Idwal Jones.  
Afternoon—Books of the Centennial Years, 1946-1950. Speakers: Richard Lillard, Donald Bean, Jake Zeitlin.  
Evening—Formal Banquet, Centennial Evaluation. Speaker, Dixon Wecter.

## Academic Library Notes

A QUARTERLY RÉSUMÉ of headline news from college, university, and research libraries throughout California.

**R**ED IS NOT the safest of hues nowadays, but that was the color of our face when advised of the impossibility of "dropping down about 5° of longitude"—a navigational *faux pas* committed in the last issue of the "Notes." But we are doubtful that it had any connection with what happened to the 'Mighty Mo' in Chesapeake Bay.

Henry Madden of Fresno State writes of plans for an open-house program on April 22, held in cooperation with the Fresno County Free Library, to which selected high school seniors of the vicinity will be invited for purposes of recruitment. The College library has inaugurated a monthly news-letter to the faculty, containing news of changes in library procedures, items about interesting acquisitions, and random comments on books and libraries. Mention should also be made of the recent publication of Mr. Madden's new book, "Xantus, Hungarian Naturalist in the Pioneer West."

Dominican College's Librarian, Sister Mary Marguerite, tells of a gift of Dona Concepcion Arguello's copy of the "Imitation de Christo" from Professor J. L. Hagerty of St. Mary's College. This copy is of particular interest because it was once the property of Vincenza Salgada, Spanish resident of Monterey and pupil of the Governor's daughter who, as Sister Mary Dominica, was the first native Californian to enter the Dominican convent founded there in 1850.

We learn from David Davies that the Foundation for Regional Economic Studies at Claremont Men's College has just published Kalman Dienes' account of the region's citrus industry and water and transportation problems, under the title, "Problems of Transition in Pomona Valley." Over-subscription by the businessmen of the area threatens to make the book a collectors' item.

Huntington Library has had another active season as a publisher, putting out a limited edition of a work by its Curator Emeritus of the Gardens, William H. Hertrich, on "The Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1905-1949"; a scholarly thriller, "Lincoln and the Baltimore Plot," edited by Norma B. Cuthbert; and the letters of "Mark Twain to Mrs. Fairbanks," edited by Dixon Wecter.

Mr. Wecter, as editor of the Estate, recently delivered the Mark Twain Papers to UC, to which they were bequeathed by his only living daughter, Clara Clemens Samossoud. The Regents have authorized the establishment of a Mark Twain Library to house the collection and to provide a center of research into his life and writings. Mr. Wecter stays on at the University as Byrne Professor of American History.

The Library of the Berkeley campus is the beneficiary of several other gifts, among them the working library of the late Rudolph Schevill, noted Cervantes scholar and Professor of Spanish at UC. The collection is the gift of his son, Dr. Karl E. Schevill. Another bequest is the private library of William C. Haberley, from alumnus son Alan, comprising more than 800 volumes, chiefly belles lettres. A group of works by and about Carl Sandburg was presented to the Library by Mrs. Leon Gelber of San Francisco in memory of her husband. And lovers of chamber music will probably drool when told that the UC Music Library is now the possessor of a complete set of the recorded repertoire of the Griller Quartet, through the instrumentality of Mr. Sidney Griller.

Mrs. Frances Jenkins, Acting Head of Branches of UC Library, is on the staff of a new publication, "Chemical Literature News Notes," sponsored by the Division of Chemical Literature of the American Chemical Society. The bulletin, issuing about four times yearly, is to include brief abstracts of current reports on chemical literature and notes

on new indexing equipment and techniques.

From 1947 until he became Assistant Librarian at UC, *Marion Milczewski* was Director of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, whose object was the development of library service throughout the seven states within the TVA, plus Florida and South Carolina. "Libraries of the Southeast" is the report of the Survey and is jointly edited by Mr. Milczewski and Louis R. Wilson of the University of North Carolina, whose press is the publisher.

Word comes from *Dean J. Periam Danton* that *Coit Coolidge* will teach the spring course in Municipal and County Library Administration at the UC School of Librarianship, a course formerly given by *Dr. Carleton Joeckel*, now on leave. Mr. Coolidge has had wide public library experience and has been President of CLA and editor of its "Bulletin."

The changes at LA City College Library are chiefly in plant and equipment, unless you are ready to classify a Photocharger as a "new employee," albeit sub-professional. It appears that the prevailing smog of the area forced a renovation of the lighting system, with astonishing revelations: some stack aisles were found that could be adapted to accommodate 5500 more books.

*Donald C. Davidson*, Librarian of UC's Santa Barbara College, is deep in mapping out plans and program for a new building on the Goleta campus to which the entire college is moving within a few years. It is hoped the structure will provide seating for between 6 and 7 hundred readers and shelving for 150,000 volumes.

New lighting is scheduled for USC's Library before the end of the academic year; and the public catalog is being expanded to double its present capacity. And it sounds as if the staff were expanding similarly. *Frieda Dreyer* has been added to the staff of the Graduate School of Library Science as revisor. *Mabel Schulte* left Western Colorado

State Teachers College to head the Education Library, which lost *Mary Evans* to the Periodicals Section as its chief. The Loan Department has acquired the services of *Francis Byrn* as first assistant. *Lloyd Arvidson*, *Dorothy Dragonette*, *Robert Lewis*, and *Clara Moen* are the latest appointments to the Catalog Department. A Gifts and Exchanges Section has been established in the Acquisitions Department, with *Elizabeth Karshner* in charge; while *Jean Adams* has moved up from first assistant to head of the Department. *Erhard Sanders* is a newcomer to Acquisitions; *Ida Lake* to Periodicals. *Margaret Weik* and *Sylvia Spector* are transferees to Reference from other parts of the Library. The Serials Section has lost one and gained one: *Theresa Streeck* in the first instance; *Marcella Law* in the second. The Education Library was the loser when *Susanne Stevenson* decided to go into school library work.

UCLA's Clark Library, the subject of a recent address by *Lawrence Powell* to the Bibliographical Society of America, will break ground on June 1 for an underground stack annex, affording space for 30,000 more rare books and cubicles for readers. It is hoped that the same date will see the completion of the remodelling of the UCLA Library's west wing.

The remodelling bug has bitten Stanford too. The plans to be submitted to the authorities call for an ingenious use of the monumental waste space around the present 30-year old building, further juxtaposition of functionally related sections, and the construction of a storage building. The newest member of the Stanford staff is *Carlyle R. Stickler*, an alumnus of Cornell and Columbia. Lost, however, are the able services of *Mr. and Mrs. Melvin C. Oathout*, Transportation and Catalog Librarians. He has taken the position of Librarian of the State Hospital at Modesto.

This issue of the "Notes" has reached the limits of its spatial latitude—or is it longitude?

—FERRIS S. RANDALL

## Party Line

SNATCHES OF TALK, earphone sketches of ideas and plans—this is the sort of news one picks up on a party line. Here the parties are librarians, and the line runs between California public libraries. Are you on

**B**IRTHDAY GREETINGS, telegrams, flowers and The Public poured into the State Library at Sacramento on January 24th, in celebration of its hundredth anniversary. The staff association pinned an orchid on the shoulder of State Librarian Mabel R. Gillis and joined her in host activities for the day. Even the weatherman contributed to the success of the occasion, by turning out a sparkling, sunny day.

The Open House was a gala affair indeed, with the Governor and other state officials, as well as librarians from as distant a point as San Diego, included in the 1500 or so visitors who arrived with personal greetings, inspected the historic exhibits, toured the building, caught up with their visiting, partook of refreshments, and seemed to have a happy time generally while renewing ties with the venerable institution.

Two booklets were distributed to visitors: "California State Library Centennial—The First Hundred Years," and "Do You Know—Facts About the California State Library." The steering committee planning this observance, including eleven staff members who have had more than 25 years of service in the State Library, saw to it that everything but century plants and a birthday cake were provided for the party. A tape recording of the half-hour broadcast over radio station KFBK on the founding day, guest register, a fat file of laudatory press clippings and greetings have been added to the State Library archives. And now the second hundred years is underway.

California's representatives on the American Library Association Council, Howard Rowe and John Henderson,

took part in sessions of the A.L.A. Midwinter Meeting at Chicago the last week in January. The three top officers of C.L.A. also attended: Lawrence Powell, Laurence Clarke and Harold Hamill, as did also Thelma Reid from the State Library, Mrs. J. Henry Mohr representing trustees, Jasmine Britton and Margaret Girdner school libraries and about a dozen other California librarians from public, college and university libraries.

E. Ben Evans, among the latter group, was just beginning a two year appointment from the U.S. Department of State to a library post in Oslo. He has leave of absence from Bakersfield High School and Junior College, and will sail for Norway with his family after completing a short period of indoctrination in Washington and New York.

John D. Finney, Jr. resigned from his position as head of the Loan Desk at Richmond Public Library the middle of February, to enter a Trappist Monastery.

Jean Casad Bishop, former C.L.A. Executive Secretary, joined the staff of Richmond Public Library at the time of its opening in the fine, new building. Mrs. Bishop and her children returned from their stay in the Philippines last fall.

Elizabeth R. Topping retired as Librarian of Ventura City and County Libraries at the end of December, and was succeeded by Mildred Spiller. During her twenty-nine years of service at Ventura, Miss Topping had been active in all sorts of library and association affairs. She was one of the first enthusiasts in California for bookmobiles as a successful means of providing library service to outlying areas.

Helen P. Caffey resigned recently from the children's department of Ventura Public Library to become Librarian of Thomas Brannigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Another former children's librarian,

Jessie Hume Yates, is now head of the Vista Branch, San Diego County Library. She had been supervisor of work with children in the Pasadena Public Library.

Tehama County Library lost its chief when Lillian Altman moved to Sacramento in January. She is now working in the Law Section of the State Library, where the staff had to be augmented to cover recently extended hours of service. By action of the State Legislature, the Law and Legislative Reference Section is kept open until 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, although the general library maintains its old schedule.

Two former Sacramento librarians have joined the Oakland Public Library staff—Ethel DeWitt Howard working in the beautiful new Lakeview Branch and Annabelle Patterson in the Circulation Department of the main library. Construction of Oakland's new central building is going along apace, and the structure is very impressive even at this point.

Dorothy M. Thomas took office as Mill Valley City Librarian at the beginning of January. She had been on the staff of the library section at Oakland Naval Supply Depot.

Forrest S. Drummond, formerly law librarian of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, began his duties as head of the Los Angeles County Law Library on February first. The position was left vacant when Thomas S. Debagh resigned to become librarian and assistant to the dean at U.C.L.A.'s new School of Law.

Fort Ord played host to service librarians from the Sixth Army area at an informal conference on February fourth. About twenty-five librarians from Army, Navy and Air Force installations attended. Special guests were authors Caroline Mytinger, Bruce Ariss and David Duncan.

The Music Library Association's Midwinter Meeting January 27-29 drew attendance from over the state to the Music Department of San Francisco Public Library. This first west coast

meeting also brought to California the national president, Scott Goldwaithe from the University of Chicago Music Department and Dr. Harold Spivacke, chief of the Music Division, Library of Congress. Newly elected national president is Edward E. Colby, head of Stanford University's music department.

A joint meeting with the Northern California Chapter, American Musicological Society, was enjoyed at the University of California on January 27th. On the final day of the convention, a tour of other music libraries in the Bay area took the 50 delegates to Mills College, Stanford University, Mission San Jose and San Jose State College and Public Library. The latter proudly displayed its recently completed music room.

Lodi Public Library is withdrawing from its affiliation with San Joaquin County Library effective July first, by action of the Lodi City Council on December 21, 1949. It has been part of the county library system since 1910. South San Francisco is taking similar action of withdrawal from the San Mateo County Library system at the close of this fiscal year, and will maintain its city library separately.

To encourage other local libraries (municipal, school and special) to join in publicizing the resources and collections offered by California libraries, Fresno County Library has designated its second annual festival simply Library Week. The selected dates of April 17-22, 1950 coincide with the opening week of the statewide centennial of California's literary heritage and just precede Public School Week. General chairman of the Fresno Library Week is Phyllis Snyder, Readers' Advisor in the County Library. Last year's observance was rated a real success.

Coalinga District Library intrigues us with its report that one of the "holidays on which library is closed entirely" is Toad Derby Day (usually the third Saturday in May)—a fine local custom, no doubt.

—GRACE MURRAY

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## The Connoisseur

REVIEWS AND NOTICES of the varietal literature of California librarianship.

Layne, J. Gregg. *Books of the Los Angeles District*. Los Angeles, Dawson's Book Shop, 1950. v, 61 p. facsimis.

An annotated list of fifty-five books (1872-1948) which treat wholly or in the main of the Los Angeles district. This handsome little book, printed at the Auk Press by W. M. Cheney in an edition of 200 copies, is the first of an informal series of southern California bibliographies to be issued by Dawson from time to time. With a preface by J. Gregg Layne and six reproductions of title-pages in color.

*School Library Association of California: State Professional Committee. A Study of the Need for a State School Library Consultant Service for California*. Prepared by The State Professional Committee, 1948-1949. 17 p. Mimeographed. (Available from Miss Helen Iredell, Librarian, Woodrow Wilson High School, Tenth Street and Ximeno, Long Beach 4, California.)

**T**HE LONG- FELT NEED of school librarians for a consultant service in the State Department of Education is crystallized in the findings of the State Professional Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are based on information obtained from states having school library advisory service as well as on the summarizing of conditions prevailing in California.

Librarians and educators will be astonished to learn that "There are 1,174 elementary schools in the forty (reporting) counties with no library service within the school" and further that "634 schools do not even have county or public library service." Parallel to this condition is shortage of certificated school librarians or trained teacher-librarians. This situation is acute in this state and cries for recognition and action now while plans are being developed for expanded and improved school facilities. Further on in this review comment will be made on the above figures.

The Committee has incorporated in its Study a statement of the objectives of school library service as correlative

to the purposes of public education, and recommends that the clearing house for school libraries be placed in the State Department of Education.

While it is obvious to librarians that this service is vital to the whole State educational program, the Committee finds that the need is particularly great in rural areas where personnel is lacking and support is not as strong for library service as in the metropolitan centers. With the advisory service set up in the Department of Education the agency would be in a strategic and authoritative position to relate library service to the curriculum. The emphasis would be placed in these areas where little has been accomplished in the school library program. The State advisory service would provide professional leadership through working out standards, including the planning of workshops and institutes, and would be engaged in activities concerning recruitment, professional training, and other professional matters relating to school libraries. The report goes on to outline the province of the agency, covering instruction, advisory service, evaluation, and planning duties. It is recommended further that the consultant be on a par with subject specialists in the State Department of Education and be thoroughly qualified by training and experience to carry forward the program with recognition from the education profession.

There can be little quarrel with the objectives expressed by the State Professional Committee. For the sake of a full picture of the situation, however, it is regrettable that the Study is so slight and that certain omissions are to be noted. For one thing, it would be not only interesting but extremely pertinent to know what counties are not included in the survey—are the counties with large metropolitan areas among the missing? With the well-developed county library service for schools in many counties and the provision in the Education Code requiring that money be allocated for school library books, it

is surprising to learn that 634 schools in the counties studied have no library service. If metropolitan areas are included, the fact that schools do not have county library service nor public library service would not necessarily mean they have no school libraries. It would have been helpful, therefore, to identify the counties included in the study, and perhaps to clarify "no library service." Admittedly, there is a critical shortage of trained school library personnel; here lies a challenge for an intensive recruitment program.

More attention might well have been paid to the working together of schools and public (including county) libraries in giving school library service. Mention could also have been made of the supplementary service furnished in some counties by the office of the superintendent of schools. Since, however, the need for the consultant service is most acute outside the metropolitan areas these omissions are understandable.

Much preliminary work had to be accomplished before the recommendations were prepared. The Committee must have felt by briefing the findings they would be more usable. The fact is that the recommendations have been endorsed by several State educational groups including the Los Angeles County School Administrators and Supervisors Association, and the State Council of Education of the California Teachers' Association. State Superintendent of Schools Roy Simpson has indicated he is aware of the need for the consultant service and a recommendation for inclusion in the 1950-51 budget has come from the State Department of Education.

Perhaps the reviewer is asking too much in the above strictures on this Study. A survey of the over-all problem of school library service in California is doubtless awaiting the consultant the Study recommends.

E. Ben Evans, Supervisor of Library Service for the Kern County Union High School District has summed up the usefulness to the state of this much-

needed service by suggesting for its scope of activities: "Planning new school libraries, interpreting national school library standards and formulating standards for California, providing professional assistance to the school librarians and teacher librarians, particularly in rural areas, suggesting instructional aids and assisting in curriculum planning when appropriate, promoting in-service training of teacher librarians, and collecting and interpreting school library statistics in California."

Mr. Evans further suggests that librarians in county and public libraries may wish to call to the attention of educators in their communities the findings of the Study.

—JOHN D. HENDERSON

### OUR PRIZED TRUSTEES

A recent communication from ALA lists the names of library trustees who have received citations for outstanding service. Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico, of the western states, have all shown shining lights. No doubt there are many more hidden under bushels of thoughtlessness. There may be some who have by tact and great finesse done wonders for their libraries and librarians but who would prefer not to let the old Fuddydiddies opposing them realize what happened, yet. They may have further plans. There are many more who work hard and long and perhaps do mighty well to keep their libraries afloat because of indifference on the part of the tax-payer. These will never receive any accolades. But how we prize them.

If there is a trustee on your board who has done something spectacular enough to catch the eye of the Jury on Citation of Trustees, quick get word to ALA Headquarters, 50 East Huron St., Chicago 11, Ill. You'll have to hurry, hurry, hurry, because March 15th is the deadline.



## Report of the President, 1949

**T**HE OPPORTUNITY to work with an able Executive Board and an unusually efficient group of Committees has made 1949 a most rewarding year for the President of CLA. The objective of more active membership participation has brought forth solid accomplishments. Vital and interesting district meetings and effective Committee work contributed to these achievements.

The day-to-day business of the Association has been most capably handled by Edna Yelland, the Executive Secretary. Her tact, efficiency and unfailing good humor have added much to the effectiveness of the operations of the Association. Her work has increased substantially due to the Association reaching an all-time high in membership. This was the result of an unusually effective membership campaign undertaken by First Vice-President Lawrence Clark Powell and his able district membership chairmen.

The increased membership has given the Treasurer, Ella P. Morse, more funds with which to operate. She has exercised care and prudence in the financial affairs of the Association.

The California Library Bulletin has become one of the leading library publications in the country. Interesting, well-written articles plus an attractive format have resulted from Neal Harlow's inspired editorship. The Association is very much indebted to him. Much of the financial support for the Bulletin comes from advertising and here again we made a new high. B. J. Caldwell and his committee have done a very fine job in getting additional advertising. The Bulletin Editor, the Advertising Committee and A. J. Biggins, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, combined to encourage California librarians to go to the ALA Far Western Regional Meeting at Vancouver, B.C. It was through the persuasive talents of Joe Biggins that we had such a large

California representation at Vancouver. He also supplied sound advice on library public relations programs.

The decision to make the CLA meeting part of the ALA Regional Meeting encouraged the District Presidents to plan strong and worthwhile district meetings. The programs were all of a very high quality.

A number of projects were started during the year by various Committees. These include a survey of library financial resources in the state initiated by the Library Standards Committee under the leadership of Beulah Mumm. This survey complements the study that Coit Coolidge and his State Aid Exploratory Committee have made of the needs and policies in relation to state aid for libraries.

Other projects have been the gathering of information on the extent and use of audio-visual aids in California libraries by Raynard C. Swank's Audio Visual Aids Committee. Margaret Klausner as chairman of the State Documents Committee has laid plans for an interesting institute of state documents to be held in 1950.

Fortunately, there have been no serious attacks on intellectual freedom this year. Restrictive legislation has been either defeated or so amended in committee that the obnoxious features were eliminated. John Smith's Committee on Intellectual Freedom has been on the alert and their bulletin has kept the membership aware of trends and possible threats.

Thelma Reid performed a distinct service to the Association in explaining the intricacies of the ALA Fourth Activities Report to the membership. At Vancouver she drafted the resolution setting forth the position of the CLA.

One publication is in progress. The Centennial Bibliography of California Local History compiled by a sub-com-

mittee of the Committee on Regional Cooperation—Northern Section. This will be a contribution to librarianship of which the Association can be proud. The major portion of this work was performed by Ethel Blumen and Mabel Thomas and the plans for publication were carried out by Margaret Uridge, chairman of the Northern Section.

Andrew H. Horn has undertaken an ambitious project in preparing a history of librarianship in California which will result in the publication of a series of brochures. This will be an important contribution to the celebration of the California Literary Centennial, as well as to the entire field of librarianship.

Many seeds of activities have been planted which should come to fruition in 1950. Nineteen hundred and forty-nine has again demonstrated the talent and capacity for hard, intelligent work that reside in the membership of CLA. The happy relationships the President has had with the members of the Association will always remain a pleasant memory.

—EDWIN T. COMAN, JR.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board met January 7, 1950, at 10 a.m. in the San Francisco Public Library. At this time the Executive Secretary was reappointed, new committees duly appointed, and the budget carefully examined. It was decided that \$200 for the Federal Relations Committee of ALA, to help maintain the Washington office, and \$500 for the annual meeting be taken from unallocated funds if necessary, and a transfer from the same funds of \$600 to the Publications Committee Revolving Fund was authorized.

There was discussion of a plan to organize a separate district in the south to include San Diego and Imperial counties because of their feeling of remoteness.

Dr. Powell told of the need of the present *Bulletin* editor to resign, both Neal Harlow and the University of California having generously contributed time and support to this work for the past two and a half years. Mr. Coman read the following resolution:

The California Library Bulletin has become one of the leading publications of its type. It has steadily grown in the quality of articles published, reader interest and beauty of format. The Bulletin reflects the skill, thought and hard work put into it by its editor, Neal Harlow.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Executive Board of the California Library Association expresses its thanks and great appreciation to Neal Harlow for his three years of talented editorship of the California Library Bulletin which have brought it to the forefront of library publications.

Be it further resolved:

That the Executive Board of the California Library Association gratefully acknowledge Mr. Harlow's very competent administration of the publication program of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin T. Coman Jr.

The Board endorsed the proposal that there be established a school library consultant service in the State Department of Education.

Because the regional meeting of ALA in Vancouver had thrown California meetings off schedule, the 1950 Centennial meeting was planned for Sacramento. It was suggested that the 1951 meeting be held in San Francisco. In this way the alternating schedule will be restored.

District presidents outlined plans for spring meetings. Dates and places of these meetings will be found elsewhere.

## LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Plans are now being completed at Stanford to microfilm documents and manuscripts in the Hoover Library and to develop a copying service for other university libraries. To this end, two new cameras will soon be added to the photographic department, an 8 x 10 copy camera and a Model "C" Recordak camera. Mr. Jack Lawrence, the university photographer, and his two assistants are offering a general photographic service including negative and positive microfilms, photostats, lantern slides, glossy prints, and Ozlid prints. These services are available to all university staff members and students, to other libraries interested and to scholars at other institutions. The equipment utilized includes commercial view cameras; Speed Graphics; portable microfilm camera; identification photo camera; photostat machine; 35 mm, 4 x 5, and 8 x 10 enlargers; and 8 x 10 studio view camera. Rates are established by the University business office on the basis of cost of labor and materials. The photographic services for university libraries are at present in an expansion and development stage and will be watched with interest.

According to the New York Times of October 23rd, Frederic G. Ludwig, chief photographer at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library, has devised a new and very compact reflex copying camera. It is called the "Contoura" because it can take a photo of a page even when it curves into the binding. The camera is small enough to fit into a brief case and may be used on A.C. or D.C. current or operated from flashlight batteries. It sounds like a very interesting tool for the traveling scholar.

—ALAN D. COVEY

Those of you who know Armine Mackenzie's writing will be delighted that he is to contribute regularly to the *Bulletin*. Those who do not know it are going to be delighted, too.

The San Francisco Civil Service Commission has announced a state-wide monthly examination for Librarians with a salary range of \$230-\$280 per month for a 5-day week of 40 hours. The Commission will endeavor to make arrangements to hold the examination at convenient places throughout California. Applications and examination announcements may be obtained by writing to the San Francisco Civil Service Commission, Room 151, City Hall.

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### FROM OVERDUE TO OVERJOYED

(Continued from page 106)

sive research into voting trends and reasons for defeat were analyzed and preserved for future campaigns. Staff members continued to call the Library's needs to the attention of patrons. The last effort of six weeks became a focusing campaign, summing up all the goodwill and lessons of the past. Friendliness paid off.

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The catalog for the second auction included some three hundred books: some very fine things indeed. A first edition of Fielding's Tom Jones, first translation of Montaigne's Essays by Florio in 1603, Arensola's Conquest of the Philippines, Madrid, 1609, the late A. Edward Newton's copy of the first edition of Boswell's Life of Samuel Johnson, Cooper's Last of the Mohicans,

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